

across our country to ignite a national discussion about those values that make America what it is—the beacon of freedom for the entire world.

As we continue an extended period of economic prosperity, our nation cannot afford to ignore very serious threats to our culture, society, and political systems. We have to keep people engaged in finding solutions to the problems facing our nation in the 21st century. The "Re-Elect America" bus tour aims to do exactly that, by reminding people about the great institutions of our history, government and society. Balint Vazsonyi knows that unless our citizens know, understand, and appreciate our nation's history and institutions, then when those institutions are under attack, people don't appreciate them enough to come to their defense.

Visiting all 50 state capitols in a few short months is something very few of us would attempt. However, I am confident that with Balint Vazsonyi at the helm, this tour will be a roaring success. I wish him all the best on his stop in Georgia, and look forward to following his progress from there, all across this great and glorious land.

MRS. MELISSA TREZISE, A  
PIONEER OF EDUCATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a woman that has dedicated her life to educating children. Mrs. Melissa Trezise has been a true pioneer in education. To preserve the history of education in rural Colorado in the early twentieth century, she has written her memoirs about what it was to be a teacher in rural Colorado in the 1930's.

Melissa knew from the time she was in elementary school she wanted to be a teacher. She wanted to help children learn how to read and write, but more importantly, she wanted to teach them about science, history and even art. Melissa taught math, science, geography, U.S. history, health, Colorado history, and agriculture. Students always looked forward to Friday's, not only because of the weekend, but also for their art classes.

Melissa's first school, Catamount School, was located centrally in the region. This meant that everyone has to travel to the school. There was no well near the school, so pupils and teacher had to bring their own water. Melissa recalls that this was not always convenient and they all tried not to get too dirty.

Recess is usually a student's favorite part of the school day. In this case, the teacher enjoyed recess just as much as the student. Melissa was the pitcher during the baseball games and she loved to jump rope with the students. Many people said they couldn't tell the difference between teacher and student when they were on the playground.

Melissa moved to different schools and taught a great many children, but she will always remain a favorite in the eyes of many former students. Melissa's career encom-

passed everything from one-room schoolhouses to the current Eagle Valley Elementary School.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of a legend in education, Melissa Trezise. She is a woman that deserves our highest respect and praise.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TELEWORK TAX INCENTIVE ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to provide a \$500 tax credit for telework. The purpose of my legislation is to provide an incentive to encourage more employers to consider telework for their employees. Telework should be a regular part of the 21st century workplace. The best part of telework is that it improves the quality of life for all.

Nearly 20 million Americans telework today, and according to experts, 40 percent of American jobs are compatible with telework. Telework reduces traffic congestion and air pollution. It reduces gas consumption and our dependency on foreign oil. Telework provides people with disabilities greater job opportunities. Telework helps fill our nation's labor market shortage. It is also a good way for retirees to pick up part-time work.

Companies save significantly when they have a strong telecommuting program. At one national telecommunications company, nearly 25 percent of its employees work from home at least 1 day per week. The company found positive results in the way of fewer days of sick leave, better worker retention, and higher productivity.

According to a George Mason University (Fairfax, VA) study, for every 1 percent of the Washington metro region workforce that telecommutes, there is a 3-percent reduction in traffic delays. George Mason University has recently completed another study which suggests that on Friday mornings there is a 2- to 4-percent drop in traffic volume in the Washington metro region, a so-called "Friday effect."

This is promising news because it means that with just a 1- to 2-percent increase in the number of commuters who leave their cars parked and instead telework just 1 or 2 days per week, we could get to the so-called "Friday effect" all week long.

Last fall, I participated in Virginia Governor James Gilmore's telework task force. I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Governor Gilmore for his strong leadership and involvement in telework. The Governor's task force made a number of recommendations to increase and promote telework. One recommendation was to establish a tax credit toward the purchase and installation of electronic and computer equipment that allow an employee to telework. For example, the cost of a computer, fax machine, modem, phone, printer, software, copier, and other expenses necessary to enable telework could count toward a tax credit, provided the person worked at home a minimum number of days per year.

My legislation today would provide a \$500 tax credit "for expenses paid or incurred under a teleworking arrangement for furnishings and electronic information equipment which are used to enable an individual to telework." For example, the cost of a computer, fax machine, modem, software, etc., as well as home office furnishing would apply toward the credit. An employee must telework a minimum of 75 days per year to qualify for the tax credit. Both the employer and employee are eligible for the tax credit, but the tax credit goes to whomever absorbs the expense for setting up the at-home worksite.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have many groups joining in support of my legislation. Supporters include: the International Telework Association and Council, Northern Virginia Technology Council, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Covad Communications, National Town Builders Association, George Mason University, Litton Industries, Orbital Sciences Corporation, Consumer Electronic Association, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Capnet, BTG Corporation, Electronic Industries Alliance, Telecommunications Industry Association, American Automobile Association Mid-Atlantic, Dimensions International Inc., Capunet, TManage, Science Applications International Corporation, AT&T, Virginia Economic Bridge, Computer Associates Incorporated, and Dyn Corp.

I have stated before that work is something you do, not someplace you go. Hopefully we can make telework as commonplace as the morning traffic report. There is nothing magical about strapping ourselves into a car and driving sometimes up to an hour and a half, arriving at a workplace and sitting before a computer. We can access the same information from a computer in our living rooms. Wouldn't it be great if we could replace the evening rush hour commute with time spent with the family, or coaching little league or other important quality of life matters?

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will consider signing on as a cosponsor of this proposal to promote telework and provide employees choices for the workplace.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUIE MOORE II IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the history and heritage of African-Americans this month, I wish to take this opportunity today, February 18, 2000, to recognize a very special man who lives in my Congressional District of Minneapolis—Louis Moore II.

Louie Moore II—a respected historian, successful businessman, outstanding community leader, and a caring and kind citizen—has made countless contributions to his community, his state, and his country over the course of his 84 years.

Louie was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1916. He attended the now-closed Mechanic Arts High School in St. Paul—where he quickly established a reputation as a star athlete,